

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A delivery system comprising:
a housing;
a sheath;
a slider coupled to said sheath, said slider being located within said housing;
an engagement plate located within said housing, said engagement plate coupled to said housing by at least one breakaway, wherein said at least one breakaway breaks to disengage said engagement plate from said housing, wherein retraction of said slider causes said slider to directly contact and connect to said engagement plate; and
a source of stored energy coupled to said engagement plate.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The delivery system of Claim 1 wherein said slider comprises a collet and a collar.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The delivery system of Claim 2 wherein said collet comprises a tapered surface for facilitating coupling of said collet to said engagement plate.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The delivery system of Claim 2 wherein said collar is an annulus slidably mounted around said sheath.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The delivery system of Claim 2 wherein said collet is coupled to said engagement plate.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The delivery system of Claim 2 wherein said engagement plate is an annular shaped member.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The delivery system of Claim 2 wherein said collet includes an aperture aligned with a lumen of said sheath.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (previously presented): The delivery system of Claim 1 wherein a slider movement mechanism slot of said housing ends near said at least one breakaway.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The delivery system of Claim 1 wherein said at least one breakaway is a mechanism that disengages said engagement plate from said housing.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The delivery system of Claim 1 further comprising a braking mechanism coupled to said engagement plate.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The delivery system of Claim 11 wherein said braking mechanism is selected from the group consisting of a frictional mechanism, a pneumatic mechanism and a kinetic mechanism.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The delivery system of Claim 11 wherein said braking mechanism comprises an air seal between said engagement plate and said housing.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The delivery system of Claim 13 further comprising one or more vent apertures allowing air to escape.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The delivery system of Claim 11 wherein said braking mechanism comprises a brake plate coupled to said engagement plate and a brake wheel coupled to said housing, said brake wheel engaged with said brake plate.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The delivery system of Claim 15 wherein said brake plate comprises teeth coupled to teeth of said brake wheel in a rack and pinion arrangement.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The delivery system of Claim 15 further comprising a flywheel coupled to said brake wheel.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The delivery system of Claim 17 wherein said flywheel comprises paddles.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The delivery system of Claim 11 wherein said braking mechanism comprises friction pads coupled to said engagement plate, said friction pads being flexible members that press against said housing.

Claim 20 (original): The delivery system of Claim 1 wherein said source of stored energy comprises a spring.

Claim 21 (original): The delivery system of Claim 20 further comprising an anchor plate coupled to said spring.

Claim 22 (original): The delivery system of Claim 1 further comprising a stent constrained by said sheath.

Claim 23 (original): The delivery system of Claim 22 further comprising an inner member, said stent being positioned around said inner member.

Claim 24 (original): The delivery system of Claim 1 further comprising a slider movement mechanism coupled to said slider, said slider movement mechanism extending from inside said housing through a slider movement mechanism slot of said housing.

Claim 25 (original): The delivery system of Claim 1 further comprising means for connecting said slider to said engagement plate.

Claim 26 (original): The delivery system of Claim 1 wherein said slider comprises locking protrusions and said engagement plate comprises locking apertures aligned with said locking protrusions.

Claim 27 (canceled): A method comprising:
manually retracting a slider coupled to a sheath to initiate deployment of a stent;
wherein said manually retracting further comprises causing said slider to directly contact and become connected to an engagement plate; and
wherein said manually retracting further comprises disengaging said engagement plate from a housing to complete deployment of said stent, said disengaging comprising breaking at least one breakaway coupling said engagement plate to said housing.

Claim 28 (canceled): The method of Claim 27 wherein upon said disengagement, said engagement plate is moved by a spring.

Claim 29 (canceled): The method of Claim 27 wherein upon said disengagement, said sheath is retracted automatically.

Claim 30 (canceled): The method of Claim 27 wherein said stent self-expands upon retraction of said sheath.

Claim 31 (canceled): The method of Claim 27 wherein said connecting comprises snapping locking protrusions of said slider to said engagement plate.

Claim 32 (canceled)

Claim 33 (previously presented): A delivery system comprising:
a housing;
a sheath;
a slider coupled to said sheath, said slider being located within said housing;
an engagement plate located within said housing, said engagement plate coupled to said housing by at least one breakaway, wherein said at least one breakaway breaks to disengage said engagement plate from said housing, wherein said slider and said engagement plate comprise means for connecting said slider to said engagement plate upon contact of said slider with said engagement plate;
an anchor plate coupled to said housing; and
a source of stored energy directly coupled to said engagement plate and said anchor plate.

Claims 34-42 (canceled)

Claim 43 (canceled): The method of Claim 27 wherein upon said disengagement, said engagement plate is moved by a source of stored energy.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The delivery system of Claim 1 wherein said at least one breakaway comprises a thin strip of molding between said engagement plate and said housing.

Claim 45 (canceled)

Claim 46 (canceled): The method of Claim 27 wherein said at least one breakaway comprises a thin strip of molding between said engagement plate and said housing.